

What is claimed is:

1. A method for defining a zone, comprising the steps of:

identifying a first physical location,

defining a first zone based upon said identifying step; and

electronically displaying said first zone on a first map of a first geographical area.

2. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said identifying step comprises a entering a first address which corresponds with said first physical location, and thereafter geocoding said first address into first geo-referenced data.

3. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said identifying step comprises electronically displaying a second map of a second geographical area on a first display of a first computer system, and thereafter selecting said first physical location on said second map with a first data entry device of said first computer system.

4. A method, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein:

said first computer system comprises a mouse, and wherein said selecting step comprises clicking on said first physical location on said second map with said mouse.

5. A method, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein:

said selecting step comprises touching said first physical location on said second map on said first display.

6. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the step(s) of:

geocoding information which identifies said first physical location after said identifying step.

7. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said first zone is a first service zone for a first mobile communications number of a first mobile communications unit which utilizes a first mobile communications service, wherein all communications involving said first mobile communications number from within said first service zone are billed at a first rate, and wherein:

said identifying step comprises establishing communication between a first server and a first computer, entering said first mobile communications number through said first computer, directing data representative of said first physical location from said first computer toward said first server, entering security information which is associated with said first mobile communications number through said first computer, and directing data which is representative of said security information from said first computer toward said first server, wherein each of said entering said first mobile communications number step, said entering security information step, and said identifying a first physical location step are executed by or on behalf of a party which is assigned said first mobile communications number by a service provider of said first mobile communications service.

8. A method, as claimed Claim 1, wherein:

said first zone is a first service zone for a first mobile communications number of a first mobile communications unit which utilizes a first mobile communications service, wherein all communications involving said first mobile communications number from within said first service zone are billed at a first rate, and wherein:

said identifying step comprises establishing communication between a first server and a first computer, entering said first mobile communications number through said first computer, and directing data representative of said first physical location from said first computer toward said first server, wherein said entering said first mobile communications number and said identifying a first physical location step are executed by or on behalf of a service provider of said first mobile communications service.

9. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said first zone is a first service zone for a first mobile communications number of a first mobile communications unit which utilizes a first mobile communications service, wherein all communications involving said first mobile communications number from within said first service zone are billed at a first rate, and wherein:

said identifying step is executed by or on behalf of a party which was assigned said first mobile communications number by a technique which is selected from the group consisting of entering data which is representative of said first physical location, selecting said first physical location on an electronic map, and any combination thereof.

10. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said first zone is a first service zone for a first mobile communications number of a first mobile communications unit which utilizes a first mobile communications service, wherein all communications involving said first mobile communications number from within said first service zone are billed at a first rate, and wherein:

said identifying a first physical location step is executed at a time when said first mobile communications number is initially assigned.

11. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said first zone is a first service zone for a first mobile communications number of a first mobile communications unit which utilizes a first mobile communications service, wherein all communications involving said first mobile communications number from within said first service zone are billed at a first rate, and wherein:

said identifying a first physical location step is executed at some point in time after said first mobile communications number has already been assigned.

12. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said defining step comprises using said first physical location as a center of a circle which defines a perimeter of said first zone.

13. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said defining step is automatically executed by a first server in accordance with a first protocol, which in turn uses data corresponding with said first physical location.

14. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said first zone is a first service zone for a first mobile communications number of a first mobile communications unit which utilizes a first mobile communications service, wherein all communications involving said first mobile communications number from within said first service zone are billed at a first rate, and wherein:

said first service zone is selected from the group consisting of a home service zone and a business service zone.

15. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said first zone is a first service zone for a first mobile communications number of a first mobile communications unit which utilizes a first mobile communications service, wherein all communications involving said first mobile communications number from within said first service zone are billed at a first rate, and wherein:

said electronically displaying step is executed on a first display device of a party which has been assigned said first mobile communications number.

16. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said first zone is a first service zone for a first mobile communications number of a first mobile communications unit which utilizes a first mobile communications service, wherein all communications involving said first mobile communications number from within said first service zone are billed at a first rate, and wherein:

said electronically displaying step is executed on a first display device associated with a service provider of said first mobile communications service.

17. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said electronically displaying step comprises electronically displaying a boundary of said first zone.

18. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said electronically displaying step comprises electronically displaying said first zone in a first color and electronically displaying a portion of said first map disposed about said first zone in a second color which is different from said first color.

19. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said electronically displaying step comprises electronically displaying said first zone in a first shade and electronically displaying a portion of said first map disposed about said first zone in a second shade which is different from said first shade.

20. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said electronically displaying step comprises displaying on said first map streets and highways within said first geographical area.

21. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said electronically displaying step comprises displaying on said first map landmark information located within said first geographical area.

22. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the step(s) of:

identifying a second physical location;

defining a second zone based upon said second physical location; and

electronically displaying said second zone on a second map of a second geographical area simultaneously with said first zone.

23. A method, as claimed in Claim 22, wherein:
said second geographical area is larger than said first geographical area.

24. A method, as claimed in Claim 22, wherein:
said second map provides less detail than said first map.

25. A method, as claimed in Claim 22, wherein:
said first and second geographical areas are the same.

26. A method, as claimed in Claim 22, wherein said first zone is a first service zone and wherein said second zone is a second service zone for a first mobile communications number of a first mobile communications unit which utilizes a first mobile communications service, wherein all communications involving said first mobile communications number from within said first service zone are billed at a first rate, wherein all communications involving said first mobile communications number from within said second service zone are billed at a second rate which is different from said first rate, and wherein said method further comprises the step(s) of:

storing data representative of said first service zone on a computer-readable storage medium in association with said first mobile communications number;

storing data representative of said second service zone on said computer-readable storage medium in association with said first mobile communications number; and

storing data represented of said first map on said computer-readable storage medium.

27. A method, as claimed in Claim 22, further comprising the step(s) of:
identifying a third physical location;
defining a third zone based upon said third physical location; and
electronically displaying said third zone on a third map of a third geographical area
5 simultaneously with said first and second service zones.

28. A method, as claimed in Claim 27, wherein:
said third geographical area is larger than at least one of said first and second
geographical areas.

29. A method, as claimed in Claim 27, wherein:
10 said third map provides less detail than said map which corresponds with said at least one
of said first and second geographical areas.

30. A method, as claimed in Claim 27, wherein:
said first, second, and third geographical areas are the same.

31. A method, as claimed in Claim 27, wherein said first zone is a first service zone, said second zone is a second service zone, and said third zone is a third service zone for a first mobile communications number of a first mobile communications unit which utilizes a first mobile communications service, wherein all communications involving said first mobile communications number from within said first service zone are billed at a first rate, wherein all communications involving said first mobile communications number from within said second service zone are billed at a second rate which is different from said first rate, wherein all communications involving said first mobile communications number from within said third service zone are billed at a third rate which is different from said first and second rates, and wherein said method further comprises the step(s) of:

storing data representative of said first service zone on a computer-readable storage medium in association with said first mobile telecommunications number;

storing data representative of said second service zone on said computer-readable storage medium in association with said first mobile telecommunications number;

storing data representative of said third service zone on said computer-readable storage medium in association with said first mobile telecommunications number; and

storing data representative of said first, second, and third maps on said computer-readable storage medium.

32. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the step(s) of:
deleting said first zone;

identifying a new first physical location after said the deleting step;

defining a new first zone based upon said new first physical location; and

5 electronically displaying said new first zone on said first map of said first geographical
area.

33. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the step(s) of:

accessing a first Web site on a first server;

10 sending a request for data representative of said first physical location from said first
server to a first computer which is remotely located in relation to and operatively interconnected
with said first server, wherein said selecting step is executed through said first computer and
generates first data;

15 sending said first data from said first computer to said first server, wherein said first
server executes said defining step after said sending said first data step, wherein second data is
representative of said first zone; and

sending said second data from said first server to said first computer, wherein said
displaying step is executed on said first computer from said second data.

34. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the step(s) of:

20 storing data representative of said first service zone on a computer-readable storage
medium; and

storing data representative of said first map on said computer-readable storage medium.

35. A method for providing service zone information on a first mobile communications number for a first mobile communications unit which utilizes a first mobile telecommunications service, said method comprising the steps of:

electronically displaying a first service zone on a first map of a first geographical area,
5 wherein all communications involving said first mobile communications number from within said first service zone are billed at a first rate; and

electronically displaying a first physical location of said first mobile telecommunications unit at a time when said first mobile telecommunications unit was used for a first communication with another communications device, wherein said electronically displaying a first physical
10 location step is executed on said first map.

36. A method, as claimed in Claim 35, wherein:

both of said electronically displaying steps are executed on a first display device associated with a service provider of said first mobile communications service.

37. A method, as claimed in Claim 35, wherein:

15 both of said electronically displaying steps are executed on a first display device of a party which has been assigned said first mobile communications number.

38. A method, as claimed in Claim 35, wherein:

said first physical location encompasses a second geographical area which is smaller than said first service zone but which is larger than a single longitude/latitude coordinate, wherein
20 said second geographical area accounts for an uncertainty as to an exact position of said first mobile communications unit when said first communication was made.

39. A method, as claimed in Claim 35, wherein:

said electronically displaying a first physical location step further comprises displaying, on said first map, streets and highways which are located within said first geographical area.

40. A method, as claimed in Claim 35, wherein:

said electronically displaying a first physical location step comprises displaying, on said first map, landmark information which is located within said first geographical area.

41. A method, as claimed in Claim 35, further comprising the step(s) of:

electronically displaying a second geographical area which encompasses a plurality of service zones which are currently in effect for said first mobile communications number, wherein said electronically displaying a second geographical area is executed on a second map, and wherein said electronically displaying a second geographical area step is based upon said providing step.

42. A method, as claimed in Claim 41, wherein:

said second geographical area is larger than said first geographical area, and wherein said first geographical area is entirely contained within said second geographical area.

43. A method, as claimed in Claim 41, wherein:

said second map provides less detail than said first map.

44. A method, as claimed in Claim 41, further comprising the step(s) of:

providing an option to display said second map without displaying any physical location information, wherein said physical location information identifies a physical location of said first mobile communications unit when said first mobile telecommunications unit was previously used for making a communication within an area encompassed by said second map.

50. A method, as claimed in Claim 48, wherein:

both of said electronically displaying steps are executed after said selecting step.

51. A method, as claimed in Claim 35, further comprising the step(s) of:

providing access to a first Web site on a first server through a first computer which is

5 remotely located in relation to and operatively interconnected with said first server;

directing a request for service zone information toward said first server;

directing data which represents said first service zone and said first map toward said first
computer, wherein said directing data which represents said first service zone step is executed in
response to said directing a request for service zone information step, and wherein said
10 electronically displaying a first service zone step is executed after said directing a request for
service zone information step;

directing a request for first communication information toward said first server; and

directing data which defines said first physical location toward said first computer,
wherein said directing data which defines said first physical location step is executed in response
15 to said directing a request for first communication information step, and wherein said
electronically displaying a first physical location step is executed after said sending a request for
first communication information step.

52. A method, as claimed Claim 35, further comprising the step(s) of:
establishing communication between a first server and a first computer;
entering identifying information regarding said first mobile telecommunications service
account through said first computer;
5 directing data representative of said identifying information from said first computer
toward said first server;
entering security information regarding said first mobile telecommunications service
account through said first computer; and
directing data representative of said security information from said first computer toward
10 said first server, wherein each of said entering identifying information step, said entering security
information step, said electronically displaying a first service zone step, and said electronically
displaying a first physical location step are executed by a party which has been assigned said
first mobile communications number.

53. A method, as claimed Claim 35, further comprising the step(s) of:
15 establishing communication between a first server and a first computer;
entering identifying information regarding said first mobile telecommunications service
account through said first computer;
directing data representative of said identifying information from said first computer
toward said first server, wherein said entering identifying information step, said electronically
20 displaying a first service zone step, and said electronically displaying a first physical location
step are executed on behalf of a service provider of said first mobile communications service.